App. No. 09/993026
Amd. Dated July 6, 2004
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claim 22 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) Roof rack bar for automobile vehicles comprising a transverse bar and two fastening feet mounted at the ends of said transverse bar and lying in the axis of said transverse bar, said feet being provided to operate in conjunction with guidance and maintenance side rails mounted on said automobile vehicle and being capable of sliding along said side rails in an adjustment position, the angle between said transverse bar and each of said side rails remaining substantially constant when the bar is displaced along side rails,

wherein at least one of said feet comprises a housing in which one end of said transverse bar can slide between two extreme positions in order to adapt to a variable distance between said side rails,

said housing comprising first locking and reinforcement means capable of operating in conjunction with second complimentary locking and reinforcement means fitted on said transverse bar to immobilize or authorize the displacement of said end of the transverse bar inside said housing, said first and second locking and reinforcement means extending inside said transverse bar.

2. (Previously Presented) Roof-rack bar of claim 1 wherein said second locking and reinforcement means fitted on said transverse bar operate in conjunction with said first locking and reinforcement means in the locked position in order to eliminate or reduce the transversal play between said transverse bar and the surfaces of said housing.

3. (Previously Presented) Roof-rack bar of claim 1 wherein said first locking and reinforcement means comprise at least one male (respectively female) component capable of operating in conjunction with, and of complementing, at least one female (respectively male) component fitted on the transverse bar.

4. (Previously Presented) Roof rack bar for automobile vehicles comprising a transverse bar and two fastening feet mounted at the ends of said transverse bar and lying in the axis of said transverse bar,

said feet being provided to operate in conjunction with guidance and maintenance side rails mounted on said automobile vehicle and being capable of sliding along said side rails in an adjustment position, the angle between said transverse bar and each of said side rails remaining substantially constant when the bar is displaced along side rails,

wherein at least one of said feet comprises a housing in which one end of said transverse bar can slide between two extreme positions in order to adapt to a variable distance between said side rails,

said housing comprising a first locking and reinforcement means capable of operating in conjunction with a second complimentary locking and reinforcement means fitted on said transverse bar to immobilize or authorize the displacement of said end of the transverse bar inside said housing, said first and second locking and reinforcement means extending inside said transverse bar, and

whereby a locked position said first and second locking and reinforcement means constitute a gear system comprising at least one tooth.

5. (Previously Presented) Roof rack bar for automobile vehicles comprising a transverse bar and two fastening feet mounted at the ends of said transverse bar and lying in the axis of said transverse bar,

said feet being provided to operate in conjunction with guidance and maintenance side rails mounted on said automobile vehicle and being capable of sliding along said side rails in an adjustment position, the angle between said transverse bar and each of said side rails remaining substantially constant when the bar is displaced along side rails,

wherein at least one of said feet comprises a housing in which one end of said transverse bar can slide between two extreme positions in order to adapt to a variable distance between said side rails,

said housing comprising a first locking and reinforcement means capable of operating in conjunction with a second complimentary locking and reinforcement means fitted on said transverse bar to immobilize or authorize the displacement of said end of the transverse bar inside said housing, said first and second locking and reinforcement means extending inside said transverse bar, and

wherein said first and second locking and reinforcement means comprise at least one rack.

6. (Previously Presented) Roof-rack bar of claim 5 wherein said rack is transversally mobile relative to the longitudinal axis of the transverse bar.

7. (Previously Presented) Roof-rack bar of claim 5 wherein said transverse bar comprises a mobile component capable of sliding along said transverse bar and of operating in conjunction with said rack such that it draws it between the locked and unlocked position and vice versa.

8. (Previously Presented) Roof-rack bar of claim 7 wherein said mobile component has at least one slope against which one or more support components of said rack are capable of coming to bear.

9. (Previously Presented) Roof-rack bar of claim 1 wherein it comprises at least one means for actuating the locking/unlocking of said transverse bar that projects into a recess of said transverse bar or one of said feet.

10. (Previously Withdrawn) Roof-rack bar of claim 9 characterized in that said actuating means are coupled to said mobile component via at least one cable running inside said transverse bar.

11. (Previously Presented) Roof rack bar for automobile vehicles comprising a transverse bar, two fastening feet mounted at the ends of said transverse bar and lying in the axis of said transverse bar, and at least one actuating means, wherein

said feet being provided to operate in conjunction with guidance and maintenance side rails mounted on said automobile vehicle and being capable of sliding along said side rails in an adjustment position, the angle between said transverse bar and each of said side rails remaining substantially constant when the bar is displaced along side rails,

wherein at least one of said feet comprises a housing in which one end of said transverse bar can slide between two extreme positions in order to adapt to a variable distance between said side rails,

said housing comprising a first locking and reinforcement means capable of operating in conjunction with a second complimentary locking and reinforcement means fitted on said transverse bar to immobilize or authorize the displacement of said end of the transverse bar

inside said housing, said first and second locking and reinforcement means extending inside said transverse bar, and

said actuator means acts simultaneously on:

- locking/unlocking said transverse bar in said housing;
- immobilization means fitted on at least one of said fastening feet such that they authorize or prevent said feet from being displaced along said guidance side rails.

12. (~~Previously~~ Withdrawn) Roof-rack bar of claim 11 characterized in that said actuating means control the immobilization of the two fastening feet.

13. (~~Previously~~ Withdrawn) Roof-rack bar of claim 12 characterized in that said actuating means are fitted onto one of said feet and that said means for immobilizing the opposite foot are connected to said second locking and/or reinforcement means.

14. (~~Previously~~ Withdrawn) Roof-rack bar of claim 13 characterized in that said actuating means are connected to said via a first cable to said first or second locking and/or reinforcement means, a second cable connecting said first or second locking and/or reinforcement means to the means for immobilizing said opposite foot.

15. (~~Previously~~ Withdrawn) Roof-rack bar of claim 14 characterized in that a compensating part is mounted in the axis of said second cable such that the travel of said second cable is shorter than that of the first.

16. (Previously Presented) Roof-rack for automobile vehicles consisting of at least two roof-rack bars, wherein at least one of them is a roof-rack bar of claim 1.

17. (Previously Presented) Roof-rack bar of claim 16 wherein one of said bars is fixed.

18. (Previously Presented) Roof-rack of claim 16 wherein said roof-rack bars can be grouped together to constitute an aerofoil.

19. (Previously Presented) Roof-rack bar of claim 2 wherein said first locking and/or reinforcement means comprise at least one male (respectively female) component capable of operating in conjunction with, and of complementing, at least one female (respectively male) component fitted on the transverse bar.

20. (Previously Presented) Roof-rack bar of claim 6 wherein said transverse bar comprises a mobile component capable of sliding along said transverse bar and of operating in conjunction with said rack such that it draws it between the locked and unlocked position and vice versa.

21. (Previously Presented) Roof-rack of claim 17 wherein said roof-rack bars can be grouped together to constitute an aerofoil.

22. (Canceled)